

Tofino, July 10 2012

Michelle & Martin

Erin,

We've been home for two and a half weeks now, and I still haven't figured out what to write to you. I was hoping that at some point the words would just come to me, but they haven't... and so I've been torturing myself. "I need to write Erin!" but "I have no idea what to write to Erin!"

And then you posted your most recent letter to Maisie, about having a peaceful heart. And it reminded me of when I first saw that phrase somewhere on your blog or website or facebook page, and I knew that it was you who I wanted at our wedding. Because I had written it in my own journal years ago – and if you used those words too, if you knew what they meant, then you would "get it." You would get us. And it would be okay. Maybe that's silly. Maybe everyone knows about living with a peaceful heart. Maybe it's in some book we both read at some point and there's nothing more to it than that. And, anyway, a wedding is just a wedding. It's a day in a life. Maybe it's no big deal who is there, or what you wear, or whether or not you find a photographer who you really, really like. Because it's just a few hours. And if the images are gorgeous then, at the end of the day, we're happy, our families are happy, and everyone gets what they need.

Secretly, though.... oh, I was looking for so much more than gorgeous images. And that's not to say that gorgeous wouldn't have been miraculous on its own! I mean, between a 9am ceremony, excitement, nervousness, two crazy kids and 6 hours less sleep than normal... it's safe to say that my hair and makeup looked better coming to work this morning than it did on July 10. Sure, I could have done with eyes that were a little less puffy... but when we decided to elope, we decided that, for us, the most important thing about that day was joy. That's it. Just joy. We wanted the kids to laugh, we wanted to eat tacos and drink beer, we wanted to hang out with Tim. We wanted to honour every mistake, every triumph, every wrong turn and every happy coincidence, to show Tenley and Duncan that there are no mistakes, there are no wrong turns... that sometimes life is darkest in the moment right before the light. We wanted to feel humble in the mystery of it all. And I wanted — selfishly, secretly, against-all-reasonable-expectations — images that would reflect *that*. All of which brings me to the point where I don't have the words. Because even though we've only had a sneak peak, even though we have no idea what amazingness is in store when you finish filtering and editing and layering your creative genius over the images that you captured on our day, I know already that they are perfect. I know from what we've already seen that everything is there. The laughter, the joy, the awesomeness of it all. I will never, ever, be able to thank you enough for that.

All I can think of is this: that you know love, Erin. You know it. You must. Because it seems to me that everything you capture, all of the art that you make, is rendered through that lens. It's what makes your work so beautiful, it's what makes YOU so beautiful. And it is what makes us so very, very honoured to have shared those few short hours on July 10 with you.

Hope that you are feeling great and having an awesome summer. We think you. are. the. best.

Love Michelle

xoxo

